GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4665
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
DROUGHT PRONE AREAS
RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have started the programme for identifying the drought prone areas;

(b) if so, the details and the objectives thereof; and

(c) the details of such areas identified so far State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) The Government have been administering the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) since 1973-74.When the programme was started, 54 districts together with parts of another 18 districts contiguous with them were taken up for development under DPAP. The programme coverage was extended to 627 blocks in 96 districts of 13 States covering an area of 5.53 lakh hectares in 1982 on the recommendations of a Task Force headed by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan (1982).The programme was last reviewed thoroughly by a high-level Technical Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. H. Hanumantha Rao (April, 1994). Consequently, the programme now covers 947 blocks in 164 districts of 13 States over a geographical area of 7.46 lakh sq.kms.

The basic objective of DPAP is to minimise the adverse effects of drought on production of crops and livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources ultimately leading to drought proofing of the affected areas. The programme also aims to promote over all economic development and improving the socio-economic condition of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme areas.

(c) The State-wise details of areas identified for coverage under DPAP are given below :

State	No. of districts	No. of blocks	Area in Sq.kms.
Andhra Pradesh	11	94	99876
Bihar	18	121	44394
Gujarat	10	52	43938
Himachal Pradesh	3	9	3227
Jammu & Kashmir	2	22	14740
Karnataka	15	81	84332
Madhya Pradesh	25	134	110863
Maharashtra	22	148	194273
Orissa	8	47	26168
Rajasthan	10	32	31769
Tamil Nadu	16	80	29426
Uttar Pradesh	20	91	51494
West Bengal	4	36	11594
Total	164	947	746104